

Geneva summit to focus on arms

BRUSSELS (R) — The first meeting of President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will focus on arms control, Rozanne Ridgway, U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, said Wednesday. Mr. Reagan is personally working on the agenda for the summit in Geneva this November, she said in a satellite news conference. "The range of issues in our view arrange themselves in four categories — arms control, regional and bilateral issues and human rights. I have no doubt that the focus is on arms control," said Ms. Ridgway, who replaced Richard Burt last month. "Mr. Reagan has no preconditions for going to Geneva," she said. Asked about a Soviet announcement of a five-month moratorium on underground nuclear tests starting on Aug. 6, Ms. Ridgway replied: "The issue in this enormously complex area of arms control is verification."

Pravda: U.S. will not join test ban in time, page 8

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

13 die in European storms

VIENNA (R) — Summer gales and blizzards raged again over Western Europe's mountain areas Wednesday, with 10 reported dead in Austria and three climbers killed in the Swiss and French Alps. The River Danube overflowed in parts of Austria and was closed to shipping. Troops helped to clear the main road through the Brenner Pass, one of Europe's key north-south routes, and rail traffic between West Germany and Italy was diverted through Switzerland. Two climbers, a Briton and an Italian, died as violent winds battered the Mont Blanc range, police in Chamonix reported. Their identities were not immediately disclosed. Rescue teams were still searching for two Spaniards, a Frenchman and a Pole missing since last weekend. In Switzerland, helicopters plucked 20 climbers off the 4,777-metre Matterhorn, where they had been stranded for more than 24 hours, mountain rescuers said. The group of 13 Spaniards, four Austrians, two Britons and a West German, were flown to the nearby resort of Zermatt.

Volume 10 Number 2940

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY AUGUST 8-9, 1985, DHUL JAIDEH 22-23, 1405

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jewish settlers open fire on citrus truck

AMMAN (Petra) — Jewish settlers Tuesday night opened fire from automatic weapons on a truck loaded with citrus near the occupied city of Hebron, reports said Wednesday. The driver of the truck was injured while the vehicle was badly damaged, the reports said. Israeli police claimed that the truck was shot at by police when it failed to stop at police request and was speeding into the settlement. The police report also claimed that two passengers in the truck fled after the incident.

Iraq frees 29 Iranian prisoners

ANKARA (R) — Iraq flew 29 sick and disabled Iranian prisoners of war to Ankara on Wednesday and freed them, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He said the Gulf war prisoners were handed over to Iranian officials and flown on to Tehran. Turkey is neutral in the war and has been used often in the past for handing over prisoners.

Tureiki: Japan, Libya to work for Gulf peace

TOKYO (R) — Libya's top diplomat said Wednesday Japan and Libya had agreed to work closely together towards ending the war between Iraq and Iran. Libya's Foreign Liaison Secretary (minister) Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureiki told a press conference that in his talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe the two countries found their policies on the Iran-Iraq war were very close, if not identical. Mr. Tureiki said Libya condemned the war and had tried to mediate between the two sides. He dismissed as propaganda suggestions that his country was supplying arms to Iran.

Lebanon to ease rules on Palestinian papers

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government has agreed to ease procedures for Palestinians seeking to renew travel documents issued by Lebanon, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) announced Wednesday. An UNRWA statement said Palestinian refugees formerly difficult in Lebanon were finding it difficult to renew their travel documents. As a result, some had lost permits to live and work in their new host countries. The UNRWA statement said Lebanese Premier Rashid Karami had agreed to form a committee to establish new procedures.

8 African states discuss drought

CAIRO (R) — Senior officials from eight African countries opened two days of talks Wednesday on economic problems, especially those related to drought and food shortages. The countries, mostly in the Nile basin, are Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Central Africa, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, all members of the so-called Regional Group of the Undugu, Swahili for "brotherhood."

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King urges Arab World to back Jordan-PLO action

'Any retrenchment would take us back to inaction, paralysis'

By Lamis K. Andoni and Saleiman Judah in Casablanca

JOINT Jordanian-Palestinian action supported by the Arab World is the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, His Majesty King Hussein told an extraordinary Arab summit Wednesday.

Any retrenchment on the part of the Arab World to support the joint action as outlined in the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "would take us back to a state of inaction and paralysis," King Hussein told the summit.

"At that point, any professions relating to right of justice will prove as fruitless as they have in the past," he said. "Complaints about continued aggression will change nothing, exactly as in the past."

The Jordanian-Palestinian action is the "last feasible chance to rescue land, people and holy places," the King said. "If it succeeds, well and good; if not, to face the consequences. God help Palestine, its people and all of us in the region."

Addressing the chronic problems that have been facing the Arab World, and unsuccessful efforts to settle them, the King asked the summit: "...how are such efforts to bear fruit while the Arab position remains stagnant? How can we achieve any progress while disarray, state selfishness, conspiracy, hegemony, des-

truction and the erection of barriers are prized above unity, national cohesion, amity, kinship, constructiveness and the removal of hindrances? Can we be justifiably optimistic about common Arab action when we have replaced logic with demagoguery, frankness with invective and dialogue with terrorism?"

Citing the Iran-Iraq war, the Lebanese crisis and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan, the King asked: "Is it not preordained fate that our causes, problems and crises should always be chronic? Are our people destined to suffer without end? Does the whole responsibility lie with external forces sustained by greed and hatred, as we are prone to saying? Or do we have a hand in that responsibility?"

The lack of a unified Arab stand and Arab states' non-adherence to the Arab League Charter are the major cause for the persisting Gulf war, the King said. "How can we expect this destructive and bloody war to come to an early

Extraordinary summit begins in Casablanca

HEADS OF STATE and representatives of 16 Arab states and the PLO Wednesday began an extraordinary summit expected to focus on inter-Arab relations and the Palestinian problem.

The summit was formally opened by King Hassan II of Morocco at 1800 GMT but attention focused on a closed session that the Arab heads of delegations held earlier in the day. According to sources close to the meeting, the leaders agreed to place the almost five-year-old Gulf war on the agenda of the summit.

King Hassan had called the summit to discuss ways and means to heal inter-Arab differences and review developments in the Palestinian problem. A foreign ministers' meeting on Monday stopped short of adding the Gulf war to the agenda despite efforts by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. It was not clear what prompted the delegations to add the item to the agenda on Wednesday.

Items on the agenda were the subject of discussion during the closed session, which was preceded by extensive talks among heads of delegations.

A very important meeting was held Tuesday between His Majesty King Hussein, King Hassan and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser

Arafat. The meeting continued until the early hours of Wednesday.

It was preceded by a meeting between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, another between the King and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Ramadan met separately on the same day.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that a consensus was emerging among delegates to the summit to avoid taking major decisions over sensitive issues such as the Feb. 11 Jordanian-Palestinian accord, the return of Egypt to the Arab League and any amendment to the Arab League Charter.

The sources expect the summit to issue a statement covering all issues but focusing mainly on calls for efforts to restore Arab solidarity and clear the Arab political atmosphere. The statement would also cover efforts to convene the next regular Arab summit in Riyadh through reaffirming commitment to resolutions adopted at the last regular summit held in Fez, Morocco, in 1982. The sources said they also expect the statement to call for special decisions to protect Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The sources said that an Arab



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by King Hassan II of Morocco and Moroccan Prince Mohammad, inspects a guard of honour upon his arrival in Casablanca Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

U.S., Israel 'awaiting Arab response' to Feb. 11 accord

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States and Israel are keeping a close watch on the Arab summit in Casablanca to assess Arab response to proposals for peace talks, Israeli officials said Wednesday.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, who with Israeli leaders Wednesday after visits to Jordan and Egypt, told the Israelis that Jordan was keen on pursuing peace efforts, officials told the Associated Press.

Mr. Whitehead told Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Jordan was waiting for the U.S. to respond to a list of Palestinians proposed as delegates in a joint team with Jordan for talks with American officials, a ministry official told the agency.

But the U.S. administration apparently plans to take no action on the list until the end of the Casablanca summit which began Wednesday, said another official, speaking before Mr. Whitehead's talks with Mr. Shamir and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Both the U.S. and Israel want to hear Arab response to the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a joint political strategy towards a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem, the official told the AP.

Mr. Whitehead gave no indication of how the Americans would respond to the proposed Palestinian delegates, but he said

the administration was "disappointed" because the list included PLO members, according to the official.

Mr. Whitehead, who took over the number two post at the State Department on July 15, told reporters his two-day visit to Israel was a "get acquainted trip."

He said the talks covered "a wide range of matters of mutual interest" and refused to elaborate. The U.S. official, who held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during his visits to Amman and Cairo, told Israeli leaders that Jordan "seems to be very interested in pushing" the Middle East peace talks, the Foreign Ministry official quoted by the AP said.

Mr. Shamir restated Israel's objections to a preliminary meeting between the Americans and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which he said Israel feared could lead to American recognition of the PLO.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir reiterated that Israel wanted direct negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation excluding the PLO, the ministry official said.

Washington has said that the planned meeting between U.S. officials and the proposed joint delegation would take place "soon" in Amman. State Department spokesmen have also said that the administration was looking to the Casablanca summit

to support Jordan's peace initiative and called on Arab leaders to back the Kingdom's efforts for peace in the Middle East.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who is expected to head the U.S. delegation to the planned Amman meeting, said last month that "some" of the delegates included in the Palestinian list now under study in Washington might be acceptable to the administration as representatives of the Palestinian people. Although Mr. Murphy did not elaborate, it was believed that he was referring to members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, whose names are reportedly included in the list.

According to reports, the Palestinian list, drawn up by the PLO and submitted to Washington through Jordan, includes two West Bank leaders from the occupied territories who are not members of the PLO or the PNC — lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme and journalist Hanna Siniora.

Mr. Peres, who had rejected the entire list as not acceptable to Israel, reportedly accepted Mr. Abu Rahme and Mr. Siniora as Palestinian "negotiators". However, the U.S. said the decision whether to or not to meet any of the delegates would be a U.S. decision and the administration would not give any veto power to Israel over the issue.

Israeli schools impose ban on Arab-Jewish contacts

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli religious schools are banning a programme of "get acquainted" contacts between Jewish and Arab children out of concern they will lead to intermarriage.

"The fact is that 80 per cent of the mixed marriages are in the mixed cities like Ramle, Nazareth and Haifa," Yaacov Haddany, director of religious education, said in an interview with Reuters.

The programme consists of visits by Arab and Jewish children to each others' communities to discuss Arab-Israeli problems and compare cultures.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon said non-religious schools, which are 79 per cent of all the schools, would continue the contacts. The Jewish religious schools have 180,000 students.

Mr. Haddany told Reuters religious Arabs agreed with him that Jews and Arabs must learn the importance of peaceful coexistence but should postpone direct contacts until adulthood.

"In some of our schools we even have total separation between boys and girls. Does that mean we are teaching our young men and women not to fall in love?" Mr. Haddany asked.

An Arab member of parliament, Tawfik Toubi, called the ban in religious schools "inhuman and racist."

Mr. Toubi likened it to the goal of parliamentarianism Rabbi Meir Kahane to expel Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Ethiopian Jews have stopped their children using a swimming pool, fearing it might be turned into a ritual bath to convert them symbolically to Judaism, a newspaper report said Wednesday.

Israel's two chief rabbis have dropped their demand for collective conversion in ritual baths of 15,000 Ethiopian immigrants but community leaders say the black Jews are still angry and suspicious.

The Jewish Agency immigration authority declined immediate comment on the Haaretz newspaper report, which said Ethiopians in an immigrants' hostel took children off a bus that was to have taken them to the pool.

Kuwaiti report sparks hopes for release of kidnap victims

BEIRUT (AP) — A Kuwaiti newspaper report raised hopes Wednesday that some Americans and Frenchmen kidnapped in west Beirut since March 1984 may soon be released.

But police and Shi'ite Muslim militia commanders in Beirut declined comment or denied all knowledge of any impending release.

The Kuwaiti newspaper As-Siyasah said Tuesday that Syria would arrange the release of five American and three French kidnap victims in Lebanon to steal the media limelight from the Arab summit which opened in Morocco on Wednesday.

The independent daily quoted an unnamed western diplomatic source as saying the release was expected to come a "few minutes before the Arab summit opens" in Casablanca.

Syria and three other Arab countries are boycotting the summit. There was no independent con-

firmation of the Kuwaiti report. Officials in Paris, Washington and Beirut could not confirm it.

There was no explanation why only five Americans and three Frenchmen were reportedly going to be freed. Seven Americans and four Frenchmen are held hostage by radical Shi'ites in Lebanon who seek the release of 17 comrades convicted on bombing charges in Kuwait. Kuwait has refused to free the bombers.

Lebanon's police commander, Maj. Gen. Osman Osman, told the Associated Press Wednesday on the As-Siyasah dispatch that: "We've heard the report, but we've got nothing whatsoever to corroborate or substantiate this."

"Police forces have nothing to indicate an imminent release of the hostages."

A leftist militia official close to the Syrians told the AP: "My understanding from influential people involved in this case that (the kid-

nap victims) will be released after the issue of the prisoners of Aitit is settled."

The hijackers of a TWA airliner in June demanded the release of 764 detainees held in Aitit prison near Haifa in return for freeing 39 Americans.

Israel has released more than half the Lebanese since then. Israeli newspapers said when the last group of 10 detainees were freed July 23 that the remaining 335 would be released in batches at two-week intervals.

Mahmoud Fakih, a Shi'ite Amal leader in South Lebanon, was quoted by the As-Safir newspaper as saying he expects Israel to free more Lebanese Thursday.

An influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, regarded as the spiritual guide of the radical Shi'ite Hezbollah (Party of God), said he had no information on any imminent hostage release.

Attack kills SLA man

TEL AVIV (AP) — A soldier in the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia was killed in a commando attack in South Lebanon on Wednesday, Israeli Radio reported.

The militiamen were killed when commandos opened automatic weapons fire and threw hand grenades at a militia position on the road leading to the town of Jezzine, about 16 kilometres north of the Israeli border, the radio said.

The town is in Israel's self-styled "security zone" along the border in South Lebanon.

In another attack, commandos fired two rocket-propelled grenades at another militia position in the "security zone", at Ras Al Bayda on the Mediterranean coast, the radio reported. There were no casualties in the attack, it said.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in a clash with commandos in the "security zone" Monday.

On Tuesday, a suicide bomber riding a mule detonated saddle baskets full of explosives near a South Lebanon building that Israel says is used by the SLA.

Resistance war flares in South Lebanon, page 2

Over 1,000 of Obote forces reportedly jailed

KAMPALA (AP) — More than 1,000 members of ousted President Milton Obote's secret police and escort unit have been jailed in a maximum security prison since a military coup July 27, sources at prison headquarters said Wednesday.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the roundup was directed mainly at members of the National Security Agency, the formal name for the secret police. They said the former agents had been taken to Luzira Prison near Kampala.

The sources' account conformed with a report Wednesday in Mumbo, a Kampala daily newspaper backed by the Roman Catholic church, which said 1,072 people — mostly security agents and Mr. Obote's bodyguards — had been sent to Luzira by the new military government.

Since the coup, the new military authorities have called on all members of the security agency and the presidential escort unit to report to army headquarters and to bring their weapons with them.

The newly appointed internal affairs minister, Paul Ssemogerere, said he had not yet been fully briefed on the arrests. As leader of the opposition Democratic Party under Mr. Obote, Mr. Ssemogerere had often denounced the government's practice of detaining people without trial.

Mr. Ssemogerere said one of the new government's top priorities was to release political prisoners detained under Mr. Obote. He said there were at least 1,000 such detainees in Luzira alone.

Reuter adds: Pressure is mounting in Uganda for a round-table conference to end bloody rebel wars in the south and northwest of the country, but the key guerrilla faction was yet to respond to calls for a ceasefire.

The Democratic Party, which draws its political support from the Baganda heartland where the main rebels operate, called on Tuesday for a ceasefire and a conference on ending the war, as well as ways of forming a new army.

The appeal was made to the rebels as well as to Lieutenant-General Tito Okello, the head of the ruling military council which seized power after the coup.

British media go silent

LONDON (R) — Striking broadcasters Wednesday blacked out news programmes to Britain and the world in protest at a government-requested ban on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) documentary about Northern Ireland.

The one-day strike affected television and radio broadcasts by the publicly-funded BBC, commercial television programmes and much of local radio.

The BBC external services, which broadcast in English and 36 other languages to an estimated 100 million listeners, was silenced for the first time in its 53-year history.

The dispute was over a decision by the BBC's board of governors to ban the scheduled showing Wednesday of a programme that includes an interview with the alleged chief of staff of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), Martin McGuinness.

The governors' ban, reaffirmed Tuesday, overruled the decision of the BBC's editorial managers that the broadcast should go ahead.

The broadcasters, whose strike action is backed by the main journalists' organisation, the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), allege the state-appointed governors bowed to pressure from the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Home Secretary Leon Brittan, while acknowledging he had not seen the documentary, wrote to BBC Chairman Stuart Young last week that the programme was against the public interest.

Iranian dissidents' escape route under growing threat

OSLO (R) — An escape route for dissidents and deserters from Iran's Gulf war with Iraq that brings thousands of Iranians to Scandinavia via Turkey is under threat, according to refugee groups.

The groups that help the Iranians seek asylum in Scandinavia have been shocked this week by a Norwegian decision to send six Iranians back to Turkey, where they say they are in danger of being sent home to imprisonment or death by firing squad.

Norwegian refugee worker Annette Thommesen told Reuters the decision to send the Iranians, who arrived in Norway last week, to Turkey may rebound on the government.

The country only has about 100 Iranian refugees, whereas Denmark and Sweden have taken thousands. "Now it's Norway's turn," Ms. Thommesen said.

There is only one recorded instance of Iranians expelled from Scandinavia being sent back to Iran from Turkey, but the refugees say they are at risk and Iranian secret police are often sent to capture them, Ms. Thommesen said.

Pope condemns apartheid on eve of trip to Africa

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II, on the eve of his trip to Africa, lashed out Wednesday at South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation.

The Pope, addressing 10,000 people at his general audience in St. Peter's Square, said the recent violence in South Africa has highlighted the issue of the "so-called apartheid" policy.

"Our repudiation of every form of racial discrimination is absolute and total... to those who suffer the violence I express sentiments of food participation and support," the Pope said.

He said his thoughts went out to all the African people, particularly to the millions suffering from hunger, war and other forms of violence.

He also expressed hope that the people of Uganda, whose government was recently overthrown in a military coup, will be able to enjoy "a real and lasting internal peace with the assurance that the rights and freedoms of the various ethnic and religious communities will be respected."

The Pope also spoke of problems in Burundi, which has a large Roman Catholic community, but where he said "numerous missionaries have been forced to leave the country and the church finds itself the object of measures which limit the freedom of cult and pastoral activity."

The pontiff leaves Thursday on a 12-day tour of seven countries — Zaire, Togo, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Morocco. South Africa hails Reagan as 'dependable ally', page 8

Jordan, Tunisia initial tax cooperation agreement

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia Wednesday initialled an agreement to avoid double taxation in the two countries. The agreement was signed by the Jordanian side by the Income Tax Department Director, General Salman Al Tarawneh and for the Tunisian side by the director of studies at the Tunisian Finance Ministry in the presence of representatives from the Jordanian embassy in Tunis and a number of Tunisian finance ministry officials.

Speaking about the agreement, Mr. Tarawneh told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, cor-

respondent in Tunis that this agreement comes within the existing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He added that the agreement aims to avoid double taxation on income for nationals working in either country.

The agreement included provisions to guarantee cooperation and to exchange information on tax legislations and regulations, he pointed out. Mr. Tarawneh added that this agreement will also apply to income from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and the Tunisian airline.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Khayyat (centre) Wednesday greets the first group of Palestinian pilgrims who arrived in Jordan en route to Saudi Arabia (Petra photo)

First convoy of Palestinian pilgrims arrives in Jordan

GHORNMRIEN (Petra) — The first convoy of pilgrims from Palestine Wednesday crossed the River Jordan on their way to the holy places in Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia.

The 1,476 pilgrims in 36 buses were received by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayyat.

Dr. Khayyat welcomed the pilgrims to Jordan and pledged all possible support for their holy pilgrimage. He informed them about all the preparations carried out by the Ministries of Awqaf, Health and Information and by the Public Security Department to facilitate

their journey. He also told the pilgrims that his ministry has contracted certain companies in Saudi Arabia which will provide them with accommodation during their stay in the holy cities.

Dr. Khayyat also told them that transport to and from the holy sites would be on board Jordanian buses and that they would stay at the Jordanian camp set up in Saudi Arabia.

The minister urged the pilgrims to abide by Saudi laws and regulations designed to facilitate their holy trip.

CAEU official denounces Israel's detention policies

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior official at the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Wednesday denounced the Israeli policy of detaining, deporting and arresting Palestinian activists without trial. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, who reported these comments did not mention the CAEU official's name or rank.

"These new measures practised by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank aim to create a condition of psychological instability and stress," the source said.

The CAEU source added that these measures are the latest in a series of Israeli economic, social and security restrictions against Palestinian inhabitants in the occupied territories, Petra said.

"All men of conscience in the world should denounce Israel's oppressive policies such as imposing taxes without justification, endorsing unfair financial legislation, imposing obstacles against Arab economists and preventing Palestinian farmers from investing their lands," the source explained.

These measures aim to force Palestinian citizens to leave their land in order that Zionist settlers can take over Palestine, he said. The source also called on world nations to condemn Israel's oppressive and arbitrary measures against citizens in the occupied West Bank and to apply United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning these violations against human rights and values carried out by the Zionist occupation forces, the source added.

Obeid chairs meeting on Aqaba port activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Progress of work at Aqaba Port and the Ports Corporation as well as ways of promoting and activating transport and transit trade with Arab countries were among the major issues discussed during a meeting of the corporation's board of directors held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid.

Issues related to employees at the port and awarding tenders for the supply of equipment for the port were also reviewed during the meeting. The minister also chaired a joint meeting for the Ports Corporation board and the shipping agents committee in which he outlined the volume of cargo handled at Aqaba during this year and projects for 1986 as well as contacts which the government has made with Arab countries to activate transport and transit trade.

Mr. Obeid also discussed possible ways of attracting goods to Aqaba port through studying costs and fees at the port. He said that the board should decide on a new tariff at the port for handling goods which would be both competitive and serve the national economy.

Ministers call for long-term measures to encourage local construction firms, industries

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Recommendations issued by special workshops on industrial sectors held Wednesday tabulated and referred to various committees which will follow up on the implementation process.

Winding up a two-day seminar to discuss the recommendations, participants voiced their keenness that all recommendations reached in the workshops, held earlier this year would be implemented.

Wednesday's session was attended by Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib.

During a lengthy discussion on the issue, Mr. Hawamdeh proposed that participants air their views so that the recommendations will see the light in the near future. Mr. Hawamdeh said that Jordan's construction sector needs a long-term strategy in order to balance the demand and supply fluctuations in construction-related affairs.

Ministry of Energy Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran suggested drawing up a protocol to follow up on the implementation. "In order to interpret recommendations into concrete results, a protocol should be drawn up to determine the side charged with the implementation, the financing party, the value of the project and the period of execution," Dr. Badran said.

Dr. Muasher suggested the formation of an independent firm to implement the recommendations. Such a firm, Dr. Muasher said, would avoid concentration of data and information of a certain sector at the expense of others. He also suggested the formation of a central committee with affiliated sub-committees entrusted with tackling each and every recommendation separately. Recommendations pertaining

to the construction sector called for the establishment of a central bank to collect information and data including all studies, statistics, references and research in addition to adequate technology for the promotion of industry.

Engineer Sami Nsour from the Ministry of Planning suggested the location of the proposed data bank at the Ministry of Industry and suggested that it should be linked to other ministries and the private sector. Dr. Muasher, however, said it would be more convenient to establish a special firm for the bank provided that it is fed by information and data collected from all parties related to the construction sector.

The University of Jordan, Yarmouk University in addition to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and other educational institutions would also be requested to provide the bank with up-to-date information and to help it conduct industrial surveys and field studies.

Dr. Muasher voiced the ministry's full support and encouragement for local manufacturers and said that national products should be given priority over similar imported goods.

"The Standardisation and Metrology Department is requested to ban the import of products which are being manufactured in Jordan, even if the Jordanian item is below international standards. The ministry would then help the industry in question improve its product to bring it up to these specifications as our aim is to encourage Jordan's national industries," Dr. Muasher emphasised.

Another recommendation emphasised the importance of conducting periodical maintenance as a preventative measure and to reduce technical problems. In this respect, some participants suggested compulsory maintenance of equipment for all firms but others pointed out that there is no legislation covering the issue which is left to the company.

Dr. Muasher said that maintenance should be compulsory and that this could be achieved by adding a certain article to the company licence.

The management and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Khalil Yacoub Andoni

father of their colleague and friend Lamis K. Andoni.

Deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Lamis and the family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hijazi receives delegation from Hebron

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Ismael Hijazi Wednesday received a delegation representing citizens of the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. The delegation praised Jordan's stand on Palestinian and Jordan's efforts to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The delegation also briefed Mr. Hijazi on problems facing the inhabitants of Hebron in particular and the West Bank in general.

Social security training course ends

AMMAN (Petra) — Seventeen trainees, taking part in a social security course which ended here Wednesday recommended that social security management institutions should be composed equally of employers and workers. The course included trainees from 13 Arab countries and was held at the Arab Centre for Social Security in Amman. The participants also recommended that employers conduct training sessions to acquaint workers with the benefits of social security and suggested linking wages, pensions and social security benefits to cost of living indexes in Arab countries. The graduates were handed their certificates by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalid Al Haj Hassan.

Embassy donates books to university

AMMAN (Petra) — The British embassy in Amman Wednesday presented a collection of books and documents as a gift to the University of Jordan library. The books and documents on British parliament and parliamentary legislations were presented by an embassy official.

JCO director meets Iraqi team

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Hassan Nabulsi Wednesday received a visiting Iraqi farmers' cooperative delegation. The Iraqi delegation is led by President of the General Union of Farmers Cooperative Societies Khalid Al Badr. The delegation also visited the cooperative station in Madaba area and were briefed on the station's contribution to agricultural mechanisation. The delegation arrived in Jordan on Monday for a nine-day visit to tour different cooperative projects in the country.

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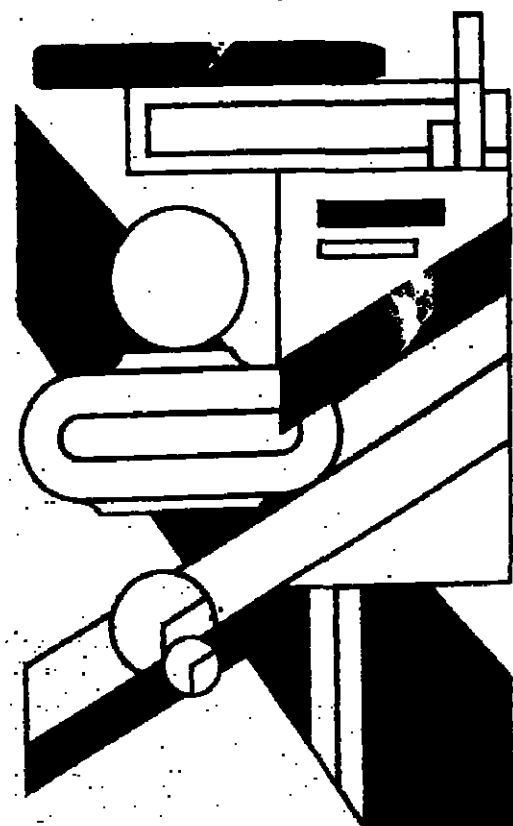
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HAPPY OCCASION



Mrs. Nora Wright, formerly Miss Yousef, is paying a visit to her family in Jordan and to her brother-in-law Mr. Elias Azzam, who was an employee of the Land and Surveys Department before his retirement.

Mrs. Wright's son Michael has graduated from King's College, Cambridge University, England in 1985. He spent 3 years in studying mathematics. Michael is unable to accompany Mrs. Wright on her visit to Jordan.



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Who needs enemies?

The Casablanca summit will certainly focus attention also on Syrian attempts to impose hegemony on the Palestinian people and the PLO and also the aggression on the refugee camps in Lebanon. Also the ordeal of the Lebanese people is bound to be taken up at the meeting and the leaders will be faced with other issues like Syrian and Libyan relations with other Arab states and their conspiracies against sister Arab states.

Better prospects for peace in the Middle East

There are today great centres of Arab life just waiting to spring forth in full flower again. Beirut is one of them. Others can be found from the shores of the Atlantic deep into Asia. If order comes to Lebanon again, then order and some justice will come to the Palestinians. And that could even help end the war between Iraq and Iran.

King urges Arab World to back Jordan-PLO action

We meet today within the framework of a truly extraordinary summit prompted by extraordinary circumstances in every segment of our nation — nearly three years after the last gathering in this hospitable country. Over this three-year period, national issues and problems have persisted unchanged. They remain as we left them: hot and dangerous

the best of its ability, has joined several of its sister states in initiatives to heal the rifts among our Lebanese brethren. official and otherwise. Our actions were prompted by an unswerving commitment to preserving Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity as well as to protecting its national Arab identity. There is still room for a collective effort to enable Lebanon to overcome its

ations, which are governed by the give and take of common interests, mutual benefits, pressures, settlements and adjustment of positions. What Israel has accomplished so far would not have been possible without the element of time. To Israel, time has not been a dormant factor in the no-peace and no-war equation which has prevailed in the region since

her Arab committee to clear the Arab political atmosphere and prepare for the next summit was to be set up. The summit will also keep the door open for all Arab states to attend the forthcoming summit in order to keep the unity of the Arab League, they said.

Some Arab officials have warned immediately after his arrival in Casablanca on Tuesday, King

Ahmad Al Chehati, the number two man in the Libyan Foreign Ministry, left Morocco late Tuesday, signalling his country's formal boycott of the summit. Mr Chehati had attended the foreign ministers' meeting on Monday.

In Amman, Al Ra'i newspaper published a report on Wednesday in which it said that Palestinian

The Palestinian leaders also called on Kuwait to review its recent parliamentary decision to stop a "to 'frontline' states and the PLO. They described the Kuwaiti move as "part of the worrying phenomena which has started to appear on the Arab stage and which aims to do away with Arab nationalistic responsibilities towards the PLO and Palestine."

Casablanca summit opens

Immediately after his arrival in Casablanca on Tuesday, King

published a report on Wednesday in which it said that Palestinian

aims to do away with Arab nationalistic responsibilities toward the PLO and Palestine."

New Ain Ghazal finds signify tool-making area

Text and Photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

This is the second article in a two-part series on the major archaeological find of Neolithic statues at 'Ain Ghazal. The 8,000-year-old statues, which were uncovered recently are similar to the first cache found in the same area in 1983 and are thought to be the earliest statues found anywhere in the world.

AMMAN — Because this year's excavation was designed primarily to salvage the statue cache, it covered a small area of just 3x6 metres. Therefore it did not produce the quantity of cultural artefacts retrieved in previous seasons. The stone tools excavated reflect typical Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) types, including stone blades, knives, drills, scrapers, handpecks, choppers, arrowheads, spearpoints and burins.

Excavated stone beads include some made of carnelian and other coloured stones. One rare find was a bead made from a fossil "blastoid", a small sea animal with a tulip-shaped body on top of a long stalk. The fossil blastoid was drilled from the top and bottom, producing a hole through which the bead could be tied to twine or leather.

An interesting find this year was a PPNB "chipping floor" at a level some 15-30 centimetres below the plastered floor of the house in which the statue pit was dug. In

the ten-centimetre-thick level, the archaeologists collected over 15,000 flint chips, mostly debris, or debris left over from the process of making stone tools by chipping flint cores. This was obviously a tool-making area where one or more people spent many days hacking away at blocks of raw flint, leaving behind the undesirable chips that could not be worked into tools. The material is clearly from the PPNB period. But it is difficult from the chips evidence alone to determine precisely by how much the tool-making and chipping operation predates the house that was built on the same spot at a later date.

Animal bones
The animal bones recovered this year also fit into the pattern of previous seasons, indicating the Neolithic village population exploited the rich environmental zone around it. The ancient dwellers of the village at 'Ain Ghazal ate goat, cattle, gazelle, wild pig, small car-

nivores (such as fox), hare, turtles, birds, rodents, fish and equids. Plant species exploited by the PPNB villagers included wheat, barley, peas, lentils, chickpeas and figs, along with assorted weeds, berries, seeds and nuts they picked from the wild.

Transition period

One of the potentially most important aspects of the 'Ain Ghazal project is the unravelling of the gradual transition during the Neolithic culture from the PPNB period to the Yarmoukian and Pottery Neolithic eras, when fired pottery was introduced into the culture, probably from the north.

Last year, excavations along the south side of the adjacent parking lot uncovered a heretofore unknown transitional cultural phase between the PPNB and the Yarmoukian eras. This would have been roughly during the 800-1000-year period in the 6th millennium B.C. that was represented by phases of abandonment at other Neolithic sites in the area, such as Jericho, in the West Bank, and Beidha, near Petra.

Drs. Rollefson and Simmons have called this transitional phase the Pre-Pottery Neolithic C, or PPNC. It exhibits similarities to both the preceding PPNB and the succeeding PNA cultures, but fits neatly into neither period.

This year's excavations may also have come down upon PPNC levels, though perhaps more interesting is the evidence of the Yarmoukian era at 'Ain Ghazal. The Yarmoukian period (roughly 5200-4500 B.C.) is particularly hazy in Jordan. The only other well documented site from the period is Jabal Abu Thuwab, along the Amman-Jerash road, now being excavated by Dr. Zeidan Kafafi of Yarmouk University.

At 'Ain Ghazal, the 1985 excavations unearthed 1-1.25 metres of Yarmoukian occupation, which is characterised by its typical "hering bone incision" pottery. The relatively small sample of Yarmoukian pottery, some of which is painted, shows little variation in style, though this may be due to the bias of a small inventory from a restricted excavation.

"Pit houses"

The novel feature of the Yarmoukian level at 'Ain Ghazal was the discovery of shallow "pit houses", rather shoddy dwellings when compared to the larger and more handsome buildings of the PPNB village. The pit houses were made by digging out shallow (no

more than 30-centimetre-deep) pits into the ground, and surrounding them with small stone walls. The floors of the houses were made of puddled mud, with post holes providing evidence of some sort of roofing. The houses averaged 3-4 metres in diameter, and seem to have been curvilinear in shape.

"The impression we get from these rather flimsy houses," Dr. Rollefson said in an interview here last month, "is that there is no longer a permanent settlement at 'Ain Ghazal. Rather, the people seem to be using the site for seasonal or temporary dwelling."

This is partly supported by the flint evidence from the pit houses, with relatively more arrowheads and no sickle blades at all found this year. This could indicate that the inhabitants of the pit houses relied more on hunting and less on cultivating cereals, suggesting the abandonment of a settled community in favour of a nomadic lifestyle.

Flint tools

"The evidence of the sharp architectural changes and the differences in flint tools many indicate that there was a change in the economic base of the community from the PPNB to the Yarmoukian periods," Dr. Rollefson said.

Among the noteworthy features of the Yarmoukian pit houses were some clay-lined, probably subterranean, storage pits, and one facility that may have been an oven. This was represented by a few centimetres of slightly baked reddish clay, protruding a few centimetres above the surface of the house floor. Three separate pit houses were excavated, one of which showed five or six phases of re-use.

Another sign of changed economic circumstances from the PPNB to the Yarmoukian periods at 'Ain Ghazal may be supported by the animal bone evidence being analysed by Dr. Ilse Kohler-Rollefson. She said in an interview that while the PPNB village produced bone remains of 47 different animal species, by the Yarmoukian and PNA eras there are only half a dozen animal species represented in the bone remains, mainly cattle, pig, sheep, goat and gazelle. But in the PNA period, the villagers start exploiting onagers, or wild asses, a species that is particularly well adapted to desert life that had not been hunted by the 'Ain Ghazal villagers in the PPNB period.

"We need to determine why the people should suddenly have started to hunt onagers in the Yarmoukian/PNA period," she



General view over 'Ain Ghazal excavation last year, when a series of Neolithic houses was excavated. In foreground of photo is typical plastered house floor with postholes.

said. "Was there a climatic change that favoured animals adapted to arid environments? Or was there a major change in the overall economic status of the people, with a split into those who lived in settled villages and others who exploited different resources in the desert areas?"

'Cultural split'

She suggests, perhaps, that during the Yarmoukian/PNA era of the 6th/5th Millennia B.C., we may be seeing the first cultural split into the lifestyles of "the desert and the sown" — a cultural dichotomy that has characterised Middle Eastern societies for at least the past 5000 years.

Dr. Gary Rollefson adds a further twist to the hypothesis by nothing that the PPNC transitional phases discovered at 'Ain Ghazal may confirm that over 2000 years of settled life during the PPNB period had taken an irreparable toll on the natural resources of the area. The soil may have been exhausted by cultivation, and the local animal resources may have been overhunted during the long PPNB period, eventually causing the big PPNB villages to collapse from an

erosion of their economic base.

"In the PPNC period," he suggested, "We seem to have a shift eastwards towards the desert environment, which was exploited by pastoral nomads who took their flocks to new sources of water and forage, and by hunters who were able to live in the desert and hunt animals that never had to be hunted in the PPNB period."

These are some of the hypotheses that will be studied and tested in future excavations. Drs. Rollefson and Simmons plan no further excavations for the next two years, in order to fully analyse their materials and write up their reports. They hope to return to the field in 1988.

This year's excavation was conducted in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, with the American team working in Jordan under the aegis of the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR). Major funding came from the National Geographic Society, with additional support from the Department of Antiquities, and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. The team was kindly offered accommodations at the Ecclesiae Mater Church in Marka, under the charge of Father Khalil and Father Gabriel.

Randa Habib's Corner

Who did the killing?

LAST FRIDAY I did not sleep much. I kept on thinking about those murders in space. I tried to figure out who had done it. Not that I am keen on winning a "door", but the TV movie, beautifully done, did indeed attract my attention.

For me, the Russians (and I mean Russians with an "S") are the culprits. The Russian astronaut first killed Olga Denereko because she was threatening him, and the others (the Canadian and the German astronauts) because they started suspecting him. Then, through the code, the Russian government asked their astronaut to take over the spaceship. By opening the box where his laser gun was kept the Russian astronaut provoked an explosion that killed him. That was the aim of the Russian command, which wanted to make sure that the body of Olga Denereko would not come back to the United States. Also this is a practical ending: No killer would come back to Earth and the problem of jurisdiction will not have to be raised.

Well, at least this is my opinion. Some of my friends think differently. For them it is "the American captain" who did it or the "Italian woman astronaut"....

In any case, the idea of the movie and the quiz is lovely, and we need more of this kind of suspense around here. We need something to keep us alert for a week together with a will, for some, of winning the prizes by guessing the murderers.

Bravo to JTV and I hope that we will have more programmes in the future where viewers are invited to participate with the action, in one way or another.

A step forward for British clogmaking

Once, clogs meant millgirls, shawl wrapped tightly round shoulders, running over cobbles through a northern morning mist to catch the first tram up to Mill. Now, clogs are part of the blossoming English tourist industry, reports Arthur Sandles from Hebden Bridge.

HEBDEN BRIDGE is one of those small towns to which tourism is a novelty — and not entirely welcome. It is a mill town, its solid stone houses clinging to steep hillsides in Calderdale, to the west of Halifax, Yorkshire, which has recently been prefitted and gentrified. A tourist information office has appeared at the main road junction.

However, aerosol messages on the walls demand "Tourists Go Home" in somewhat less than polite language. The cultural leap from the muck and brass of manufacturing to the effete gentility of the service industries is not an easy one.

Frank Walkley is 65 and has made that leap. It has not been easy. He did not do it willingly. He was taken to the edge and pushed. "When the recession came I lost half my business within six months. I had to do something." It would be difficult to think of a business more exposed to the white heat of the technological revolution than that of his company. For he is Britain's last remaining manufacturer of industrial clogs.

Today, and for 362 days of the year, visitors can stroll around the Walkley clog plant and watch men making clogs for Rolls-Royce, the Central Electricity Generating Board, steelworks and motor dancers. Fred Walkley, silver-haired, bespectacled and bubbling with enthusiasm for his new tasks, guides them all, leaping from lathe to leather cutter with the boyish agility of a Yorkshire elf.

In 1972, Mr. Walkley was in the clog business in Rochdale, Lancashire, assembling footwear from bought-in components for what was then a relatively healthy market. Wooden-soled boots, sometimes with additional coverings, have particular qualities of strength, lightness and insulation which rival products find difficult to match, particularly at the price.

It may be possible to make a shoe which will stand up to walking over hot coals of a steelmaker's plant, but to make one at a cost which makes its inevitable short life commercially attractive is not easy. You would not play tennis in clogs, but where heat, water, chemicals or sharp edges are likely to be underfoot the thick beechwood sole of a clog is a comforting thing to have beneath you.

Mr. Walkley's life looked like taking a substantial turn for the worse when his main supplier of these soles, a family company based in Hebden Bridge, told him 13 years ago that it was giving up. Faced with the choice of taking the plant over, or of joining other clog assemblers and buying from the massive Scandinavian clog making enterprises, Mr. Walkley moved his whole operation from Rochdale to Hebden Bridge. Reliance on the Scandinavians would have reduced his flexibility in responding to particular customers' demands.

Within 12 months, Frank Walkley faced the same crisis again. This time his clog iron supplier wrote to say that he was going to close down. Clog irons are the essential horse shoe-like protective strips which go on the soles of clogs. These again can be highly specialised. Grave diggers have particular strips beneath the foot arch to help with pushing their shovels into the earth. (Grave digging, says Mr. Walkley with a joke he has told a hundred thousand visitors is "a dying business").

This time he did not buy the company but only the machinery.

New faces at the Forum of Halls in the Musee Grevin

By Frank Gerin

THE Musee Grevin is no doubt the only place in Paris where you can be sure of seeing all the famous personalities of the moment without bothering them. But rest assured, you will not be the only unknown person among them: after the Beaubourg Cultural Centre, the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, the wax figures exhibited in this museum in the Boulevard Montmartre, representing famous figures from the present and from the past, are the fourth main centre of interest in Paris, judging by the admission figures of 650,000 people a year.

In order to avoid saturation owing to the increasing numbers of visitors over the last years, and also to renew the interest of the public, a second branch of the Musee Grevin, devoted to the Belle Epoque has been opened in the heart of Paris at the forum des Halles. Here, the static aspect of the tableaux in the Bd Montmartre museum has disappeared. The latest technology in sound and light and automation has been used to give life to this reconstitution of the last fifteen years of the 19th century.

Imagine a dark Paris alleyway, with a slightly gloomy atmosphere: the air is filled with music and voices and, round every corner, lighting effects reveal a new tableau, more astonishing than the one before. For forty minutes, famous characters guide you through this marvelous labyrinth. Victor Hugo, sitting on the forecourt of Notre-Dame evokes his future vision of the Universal Republic; Paul Verlaine, in the Procure cafe, composes a new poem aloud; it is snowing on Montmartre hill, and you go into the "Chat Noir" cabaret to hear Aristide Bruant sing; at the Moulin Rouge, Toulouse-Lautrec sketches to the sound of the French cancan. Some exceptional tableaux will remain engraved in the memory: evocations of the "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" and of "20,000 Leagues under the Sea" drawn from Jules Verne's

fantastic world: the perfect reconstitution of Emile Reynaud's Optical Theatre; or the night entertainment from the 1900 World Fair which ends the tour with the firework display of the illuminated fountains. Everything in the staging, innovative though it be, respects the century-old tradition of the Musee Grevin.

The museum was created in 1882, on the initiative of a great caricaturist, Alfred Grevin, and Arthur Meyer, the director of the daily "Le Gaulois". Until the arrival of the cinema, the Musee Grevin remained the only "visual" reflection of the current events of the time. But it was under the impulsion of a financier of genius, Gabriel Thomas, that the establishment at 10 Boulevard Montmartre became "the true anecdotal treasure of French destiny", which Leon-Paul Fargue spoke of. While creating historical tableaux reproducing scenes from the history of France, from the "Palace of Mirages" and from the magnificent Grevin theatre, Gabriel Thomas also managed to maintain the museum's original vocation by showing the latest discoveries of the time together with

their inventors: the telephone, the phonograph, the X-ray and the ancestor of animated cartoons, Emile Reynaud's Optical Theatre. Moreover, the name of the Thomas family remained attached to the development of the museum, throughout its history, and today, it is Regis Thomas, the financier's own grandson, who, keeping to the innovative tradition of his grandfather, has undertaken the development of the new museum in Les Halles.

Pursuing this extraordinary attention to detail, which has made the reputation of the museum in the Bd Montmartre, the best historians and the best sculptors worked on the new project from authentic documents, to make the characters as life-like as possible.

The accessories, clothes, furniture and objects which contribute to the veracity of the reconstitution are copies of originals, if the museum was not able to actually find originals. But without this painstaking work and continual maintenance of the figures, there would be no "life" in the Grevin Museum. And the public makes no mistake about that: 125,000 visitors on average a year at the Forum des Halles, already ensure



An afternoon at the Forest of Boulogne — a new exhibit at the Forum of Halls (RFI photo)

the financial balance of the new establishment.

For the Musee Grevin, in addition to its cultural vocation, is also a holding company for leisure, a firm with a capital of 13,200,000 francs, quoted on the Paris Stock Exchange. The whole concern,

made up of the two Paris establishments and of a museum in Lourdes presenting scenes from the life of Jesus and of Bernadette Soubirous, represents a total turnover of around 25,000,000 francs for 1984. With the expected growth of the new museum in Les

Halles, and an active policy of diversification, the commercial expansion of the Grevin Museum seems to be taking on a new dimension. And the ever-increasing public will be the first to benefit from it — Radio France Internationale.

'Tutankhamon curse' proves no more than fungus dust

By Milan Ruzicka

Associated Press
STRASBOURG, France — "I have succumbed to a curse," British Egyptologist Hugh Evelyn-White wrote in his own blood in 1924 just before he hanged himself.

He was among the first to enter the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamon following its discovery in November 1922, and was one of two dozen explorers who were to die shortly after entering the tomb. The "Pharaoh's curse" theory was born.

Now a French physician says it was so much not — literally. Dr. Caroline Stenger-Phillippe

has concluded that at least six of the deaths were directly linked to the penetration of the tomb. Dr. Evelyn-White's suicide and the mysterious demise of many others were not among them.

In her doctoral thesis submitted recently to the Strasbourg University School of Medicine, she concluded that the directly-linked deaths were due to the same illness from the same cause — an allergic reaction to fungi, or mold, that grew in the airtight chambers of the tomb.

According to Ms. Stenger-Phillippe, the victims contracted allergic alveolitis, a severe inflammation of the tiny air chambers in the lungs, and died of pulmonary insufficiency.

She said the fruits and vegetables the Egyptians placed in the tomb to nourish the Pharaoh through eternity, as well as all other organic substances, decayed over the centuries, creating molds and later organic dust.

Much of the fungi did not survive the millennia, but the microscopic dust did "and may have, in fact, increased its antigenic properties," she said.

Ms. Stenger-Phillippe said the dust could have remained in the tomb for up to two years after its opening, but then it dissipated and there were no more victims.

She told the Associated Press in an interview that the explorers "came to look for gold and treasures and paid no attention to the pink, grey and green patches of fungi on the walls. That's what killed some of them."

She dismissed such theories as the presence of deadly rays, bacteria or dormant viruses as unsupported hypotheses. "Many more would have died if there were radioactive materials or bacteria deliberately placed in the tomb," she said.

Dr. Arthur Maier, one of France's pioneers in allergy studies, agreed. As head of pneumology at the Saverne hospital in eastern

France, he supervised Ms. Stenger-Phillippe's research and was among the physicians to review her findings.

But he admitted that the thesis offers no more than "a very plausible" scientific explanation. "We can never recreate the original conditions and we will never have absolute proof," he said. Those who believe in the Pharaoh's curse, he added, "may go on believing."

For this reporter, the thesis offered sufficient proof. But on returning from interviewing Ms. Stenger-Phillippe, his car broke down a country road in the middle of a fierce summer storm.

Rolls-Royce depends on the the cross-subsidy of these afternoon teas for the continued supply of its industrial clogs. "The whole business depends on tourists now; we could not go on without them," says Mr. Walkley between explanations of the clog-making process to yet more streams of visitors.

— Financial Times news feature.

Cram, Coe to compete European Cup in Moscow

LONDON (R) — Triple world record holder Steve Cram and double Olympic champion Sebastian Coe head Britain's squad for the European Cup athletics final in Moscow later this month.

Cram, who has set the 1,500 metres, mile and 2,000 metres world marks in 19 days, will run the 1,500 metres in Moscow on August 17.

By then, he could hold a fourth world record. Despite an aching achilles tendon, Cram goes for a best-ever 1,000 metres on Friday in front of his home crowd at Gateshead.

Coe, who won the Olympic 1,500 metres in 1980 and 1984, hopes to be fit to run in the 800

metres in Moscow after pinching a nerve in his back during a mile race last Friday when he finished second to Switzerland's Pierre Deleze.

The men's and women's squads contain few surprises although overseas fans may be surprised by the omission of Olympic women's javelin champion Tessa Sanderson and men's European indoor 400 metres champion Todd Bennett.

Sanderson's place is taken by Fatima Whitbread, who has beaten her great rival four times this season. Sanderson will fly to Moscow as travelling reserve along with another Olympic champion, decathlete Daley Thompson.

McEnroe beats McEnroe

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — John McEnroe, playing with an uncharacteristic lack of emotion, defeated his younger brother Patrick Monday in their first encounter in a Grand Prix tennis tournament.

"Now I feel the tournament can begin," the 26-year-old McEnroe, ranked number one in the world and top-seeded in this \$315,000 event, said after he easily defeated his 19-year-old sibling 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the Stratton Mountain Grand Prix.

"I'm glad it's over with," added the elder McEnroe. "This match was on my mind a lot."

Neither player showed much emotion on the court. Patrick agreed with his brother that the experience was not ideal.

John took an early 2-0 lead and never looked threatened by his brother, who plays right handed with a two-fisted backhand. John admitted he stayed in the backcourt more than usual to accommodate Patrick's strong return of serve.

Cairo welcomes ASU decision

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Wednesday welcomed a recommendation that it be readmitted to the Arab Sports Union (ASU) after six years of suspension for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel.

The chairman of the higher council for youth and sports, Abdul Ahad Gamaledin, described the decision taken in Rabat on Monday, prior to the start of the pan-Arab Games there, as "wise and an expression of the brotherly ties between Arab countries."

Biondi breaks 100-metre freestyle record twice

MISSION VIEJO, California (R) — American Matt Biondi lowered the world 100-metre freestyle record to 48.95 seconds Tuesday night, becoming the first swimmer to break the 49-second mark.

A capacity crowd of 2,500 watching the U.S. long course national swimming championships cheered and whistled when Biondi broke the previous record of 49.24 seconds he had set in a preliminary heat earlier in the day.

"I don't think it has registered with me that I just swam the fastest 100-metre freestyle of all time,"

but when it does I will probably be jumping up and down with the crowd," said the low-keyed Biondi, who stands six feet six inches (1.98 metres) tall.

"I wasn't under 49 seconds by much, but I'll take it," the 19-year-old Biondi added quietly.

Earlier in the day Biondi's 49.24 beat the world record of 49.36 set by American Rowdy Gaines in a timed attempt in 1981.

Mike Heath, the American record holder in the 200 metres event, finished second to Biondi Tuesday night with a time of 50:37 seconds.

Young Indian wins billiards championship

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Young Geet Sethi of India won the World Amateur Billiards Championship on Wednesday, spoiling a valiant comeback by 74-year-old Bob Marshall of Australia, a four-time titlist.

Sethi, 24, who was barely one year old when Marshall won his last world title in 1962, outpointed the Australian 3809-2453 in the two-day final session.

Marshall, who plays with a 54-year-old cue, trailed 1,764-2,930 at the end of the third session of the eight-hour final and could not make up the difference

in the last round. Playing top-of-the-table, 24-year-old debutant Sethi chalked up a double century break and then a triple century break after resuming play with an overnight lead of 539 points.

Marshall, who upset several players in earlier matches, seemed to be in poor form as he muffed easy shots.

Sixteen players from nine countries participated in the two-week round robin tournament, inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

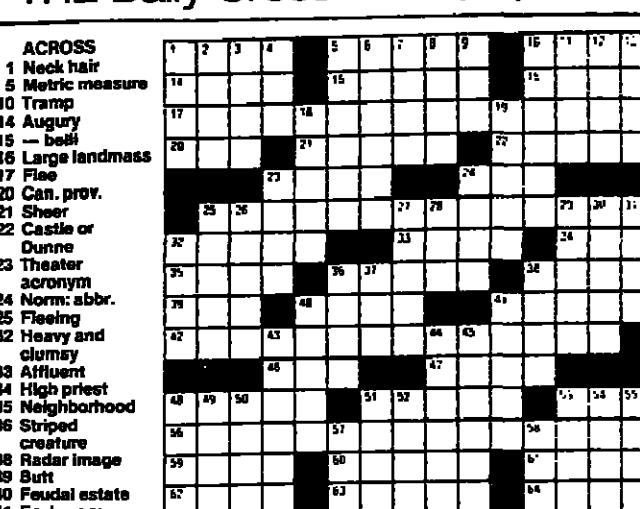
Handicapped sports team returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's national team to the World Handicapped Athletics Championship held last week in Stoke Mandeville, Britain, returned home Wednesday.

The team achieved good results at the championships and ranked 19th out of 36 participating teams.

The team, which participated in the championship for the fourth time, ended second among Arab participants and collected 12 gold, silver and bronze medals.

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield



ACROSS	1 Neck hair	10 Trap	17 Pie	20 Can. prov.	21 Sheep	22 Castle or	23 Theater acronym	24 Norm. abbr.	25 Flooding	32 Heavy and clumsy	33 Affluent	34 High priest	35 Neighborhood	36 Striped creature	38 Radar image	39 But	40 Feudal estate	41 Fry in very little fat	42 Redgrave film	43 Corrida cheer	47 Coin of Iran	48 Battery terminal	51 Money	53 Red - beet	56 Flea	58 Gen	59 Loose	61 Jog	62 Willie of baseball	63 Angles	64 Indian	DOWN	1 Geological zone	2 Approving instrument	3 Shipshape	4 Terminus	5 Baritone	6 Antonio	7 Plaid	8 Punta del	9 Ger. industrial region	9 Comp. pt.	10 Colture	11 Cay	12 Oven	13 Facility	18 Witty	19 Connect	22 Paul of music	24 Foot cover	25 Pastoral	26 Scholary	27 Muslim group	27 Surly	28 Soft palate	30 Type size	31 Aged	32 Stringed instrument	36 - die	37 Small barrel	38 - out (parachute)	40 - mignon	41 Stow	43 Sings in a way	44 East	45 Cleanse	48 Small particle	49 Cal. valley	50 Yes	51 Palm	52 Unique thing	53 Flying prefix	54 Spill over	55 It. wine city	57 Forerunner of CIA	58 Ordinal suffix
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YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED:	DATE	CESS	SWOTIE
	EDEN	ORCH	HAVEN
	HAND	PIAO	ORIAS
	TYPE	FORTY	WILKIS
	EMER	PIEN	
	SITRIDE	PERBETED	
	MECCA	ROBE	BURIA
	REH	WADJIST	TRIK
	ANING	WUEN	ORTRIA
	RETRERAS	QUOTIER	
	AIAR	AUTIRY	
	TWENTYFIVE	ENIO	
	RANGE	USIA	RIDE
	ALLIED	ALIAS	QUER
	WESSY	HEWY	SEAM

CAR FOR SALE

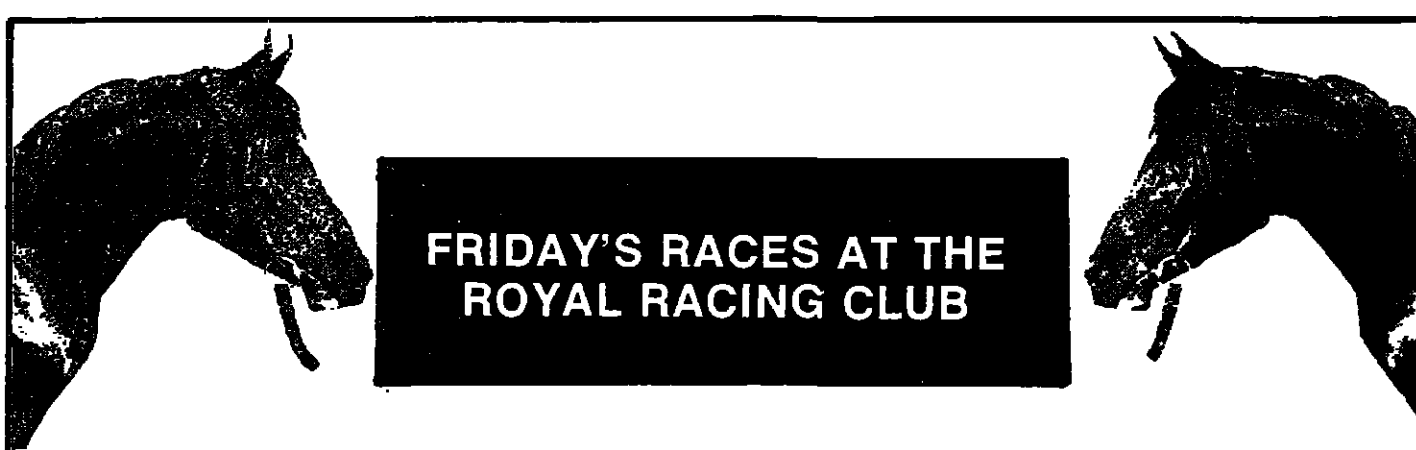
1979 Oldsmobile stationwagon, air-conditioning, automatic transmission, 40,000 miles, very good condition. Duty NOT paid. Perfect for families.

Call 662337, 3-9 p.m.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished flat for rent consisting of 2 bedrooms, dining room, sitting room, fully equipped with central heating, garden and separate entrance. Shmeisani, near Yugoslavian embassy.

Please phone 661658



FIRST RACE 3.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Masour Mohammad Metar	S. Elmshakar	Owner	Ahmad	54
2- Faleh Aly	Minwir	Owner	Ahmad	54
3- Ebed Awad Saweer	Rajy	Owner	Ahmad	54
4- Kabilan Khalil	M. Falez	Owner	Ibrahim	54
5-Sultan F. A. Jnab	M. Sultan	Owner	Suliman	52.5
6- Mohammad Faris Harrawy	Hamzih	Owner	Mowafak	52.5
7- Khalid Hawith Elzabin	El Khalooj	Owner	Ahmad	52.5
8- Ahmad Mjaily El Rizik	Ghazwan	Owner	Salim	48
9- Mohammad Tawik Elayed	S. Hisban	Owner	A. Jabir	48
10- Nalef Mitieb El Bakheet	Mabrouk	Owner	Ahmad	46.5
11- A. Ellatif Salami	M. Hana	Owner	Ahmad	46.5
12- Mohammad Suliman Nabulay	Salma	Owner	Mahmoud	46.5
13- Nawaf M. El Falez	Farah	Owner	Mahmoud	46.5

THIRD RACE 4.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mamdouh Khalid El Adwan	Azizih	Owner	Daifallah	53.5
2- Mohammad Suliman Jbarat	Sumayah	Owner	Fawaz	51.5
3- Faleh Mitak Saweer	Eianka	Owner	Yousef	51.5
4- Mohammad A. Elnaby	M. Raled	Owner	Ahmad	51.5
5- Hassan Aly Daham	Ajaieb	Owner	Ahmad	51.5
6- Mohammad Khalid El Falez	Sojoud	Owner	Suliman	51.5
7- Hamed Abdullah El Jamery	H. Maryam	Owner	A. Jabir	50.5
8- Yousef Mohammad	Ghazeebih	Owner	Hwafak	48.5
9- A. El Sattar Matar	J. Elmshakar	Owner	Hwafak	47.5
10- Faleh Neshay El Falez	Ghadeer	Owner	Saad	45.5
11- Thami Mahary El Bakheet	Bark	Owner	Rasheed	45.5

FIFTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- H.H. Late Sherif	Nasir Stabile	Jallab	Ibrahim	57
2- H.H. Late Sherif	Nasir Stabile	El Hmaid	Ibrahim	55
3- H.H. Late Sherif	Nasir Stabile	Sayyal	Ibrahim	53
4- H.H. Late Sherif	Nasir Stabile	Zafaran	Ibrahim	53
5- H.H. Late Sherif	Nasir Stabile	Sarin	Ibrahim	52
6- Badir Haman El Bakheet	H. El Hidan	Sharar	Adnan	53
7- Samy Yacoub Madros	Naifih	Owner	Mowfak	51.5
8- Khalil Haddadin	Batta	Owner	Augustien	50
9- Misha El Falez	Halimih	Owner	Owner	48.5

SECOND RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Halel Noras El Falez	Waheeb	Owner	Salah	54
2- Nabeel Ibrahim Shaheen	S. Nabeel	Owner	Mahmoud	52.5
3- Nawish Mithkal El Falez	Hana	Owner	Ibrahim	52.5
4- Aly Hamad	El Hadba	Owner	Fawaz	52.5
5- Talal Aly Shahr Diab	S. Talal	Owner	A. Jabir	51
6- Awadh Elad El Jamery	M. Usamah	Owner	Ahmad	49.5
7- Salel Dawesh El Bakheet	Bakhtih	Owner	Ahmad	48
8- Nalef Mohammad A. El Karas	S. Khalid	Owner	Suliman	48
9- Mashour F. Alnab	N. El Salt	Owner	Owner	48
10- Ahmad Mjaily	M. Thami	Owner	Rasheed	46.5
11- Dawesh El Bakheet	Jazleh	Owner	Rasheed	46.5

FOURTH RACE 5.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 2200 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Khalil Haddadin	Samra	Owner	Ahmad	49.5
2- Saad Faizal El Falez	Nafih	Owner	Rasheed	48
3- Faisal Awad El Falez	Nahhab	Owner	Saad	48.5
4- Faisal Awad El Falez	Habibaty	Owner	Dillo	46.5
5- Sultan Faisal El Falez	Khalith	Owner	Mahmoud	48
6- Nimir El Hmoud	Sahrir	Owner	Ibrahim	46.5
7- Misha El Falez	Intisar	Owner	Ibrahim	46.5
8- Ghali Haddadin	Shamah	Owner	Fawaz	46.5
9- Hany El Hadeed	Arobah	Owner	Fawaz	46.5

SIXTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Misha El Falez	El Sbaily	Owner	Mostafa	55
2- Misha El Falez	El Akhtal	Owner	Salah	55
3- Misha El Falez	M. Elajal	Owner	Ahmad	50
4- Misha El Falez	A. El Taleb	Owner	Augustien	47
5- Misha El Falez	El Zafir	Owner	Saad	47
6- Ghali Haddadin	Majd	Owner	Ibrahim	47
7- Izzat Ghandour	Koban	Owner	Owner	47
8- Nimir El Hmoud	Aneef	Owner	Mahmoud	47
9- Hany El Hadeed	Diana	Owner	Fawaz	45.5

BUDAPEST STATE

CIRCUS

In aid of the National Association for the Mentally Handicapped

Daily at 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

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Tickets available at the entrance from JD 1 to JD 5.

EFFICIENCY FLAT TO LET

Two bedrooms, salon, glassed veranda, modern kitchen and bath, furnished, complete electrical appliances, conveniently supplied with basic items, reasonable rent includes utilities, central heating, local telephone.

Location: 4th Circle, near Greek Embassy Tel: 674821

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Third floor roof-top apartment, furnished. Consists of one bedroom, salon, kitchen and bath, central heated. Situated in Jabal El Lweibdeh.

For more information call 636085 or 621506

FOR RENT

Fully furnished new apartment, ground floor. Consists of one bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, bath with central heating. Separate entrance, garage, garden and telephone.

Location: Opposite Shmeisani Bookshop Please call 663981

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk, Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for lunch FRIDAY
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily
12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - Midnight

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Fully-furnished one bedroom and two bedroom flats, w/w carpet, colour TV, central heating, telephone.
Two locations, Jabal Amman, near Fifth Circle and Abdali area.

Phone: 673768, 672842 after 2 p.m.

FOR RENT

Unfurnished new apartment consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious living/dining area and fitted kitchen. With separate central heating, available telephone line, parking space and enclosed children's play area.

Rent negotiable.
Location: Below Dahia La-Rabia, off Mecca Road. Tel: 625531

FOR RENT

Deluxe ground floor apartment in Shmeisani with terrace
Unfurnished large apt. with separate entrance, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, individual central heating. With telephone, grand lux. finishing.

Location: Near Birds' Garden. Annual rent JD 4,750 + services.
Call 634300, 6-8 p.m.

FOR RENT

Furnished villa located in Sweifiyeh (off 6th Circle). Three bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, two sitting rooms, a dining room. With telephone, garage and garden.

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1982 Chevrolet Blazer 4WD, in good condition. with air-con. Duty NOT paid.

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(Colour)

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Tel: 675573

THE NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN GEORGIA

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(Colour)

Performances 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

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Cinema Philadelphia

Tel: 22198

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(Colour)

Shows at 3:30, 6, 8:30, 10:15
TEL. 3444-3448

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3330/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3589/94	Canadian dollars
	2.8600/10	West German marks
	3.2170/90	Dutch guilders
	2.3600/15	Swiss francs
	57.55/60	Belgian francs
	8.7150/7200	French francs
	1905/1906	Italian lire
	238.90/239.00	Japanese yen
	8.8600/50	Swedish crowns
	8.3975/4025	Norwegian crowns
	10.3050/3100	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	320.50/321.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed easier, following Tuesday's lower close in Wall Street and diminishing hopes of a near term cut in U.K. bank base lending rates. But some issues moved off early lows on light but selective buying, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 2.3 at 1,285.2.

Arthur Bell ended 7p higher at 247. Guinness earlier raised its offer for the company, valuing ordinary shares at 262p. Bell rejected the revised offer and Guinness closed 5p down at 256. Government bonds gained around 3/4 point on sterling's firming. Wednesday afternoon and on cheap buying after the initial mark-downs. Gold shares were firm and North Americans mixed.

Major exporting companies, helped earlier by the weakness of sterling, came off the best levels as the currency rallied slightly in afternoon trading. ICI closed 5p up at 679 after 684 and Glaxo rose 2p to 1320 after 1330. Reed closed 12p to 659. GKN closed 10p off at 210 following interim results.

Oils were dull but off early lows with Bristol 2p off at 221 after 220. The U.K. government's remaining 49 per cent stake in the company is to be sold at 185p per share. B.P. lost 3p to 538. Banks were quietly lower while insurance were off the early lows. Grand Met lost 10p to 300 after press reports its U.S. subsidiary Liggett and Myers had lost a major contract.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is no day or evening to take any chances where your practical or financial affairs are concerned. You as well as others are apt to be stubborn and unyielding in attitude.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Give financial affairs your greatest attention today and be sure you are sensible about them in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Although you may meet with frustration in going after personal aims, if you are patient all will work out fine.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have private worries that could keep you from accomplishing a good deal in the outside world.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be more objective if opposition is trending your way where a personal aim is concerned, and you win out.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be most tactful in the business world today and don't jeopardize your good reputation. Steer clear of bigwigs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have to garner more data before you get into that new interest that appeals to you. Show that you know what you are doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your intuition is not good today and in the evening so use only good judgment, particularly with your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't try to force your views on an associate or much friction can arise. Later don't worry about public affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Avoid an argument with a co-worker otherwise it could affect your work considerably.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't be forceful in trying to have a good time today, or you alienate others badly. Come to a better understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy at outside duties today and sidestep a possible quarrel at home. Not a good time to do any entertaining at home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have to be careful not to irk anyone by making mistakes either orally or in writing.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very magnetic and others will want to spoil your progeny. However, your son or daughter will have the desire to become a success in life and should be taught to be kind to everyone if that is to become an actuality. Sports are a must here.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening to be very practical and to get into the various details connected with money, property and possessions, which should work out smoothly.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get into worldly interests early. Be sure to pay any pressing bills and make collections possible.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get out to the beauty or barber shop and make yourself more attractive. Handle your business carefully.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study how you stand where practical affairs are concerned, and plan how to make improvements on them. Listen carefully.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you apply yourself earnestly, you can gain the personal aims that mean so much to you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Know what your needs are in the outside world and how best to gain your aims and gain more public acclaim.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have some new plan in mind that could be very good, but be sure to garner more information before putting it in operation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Talk over your practical affairs with persons in business and gain good advice from them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A fine day for a conference with associates and planning the future better. Take better care of your health.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get right down to business and make a big dent into that work load and get fine results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get into the matter of detail where amusements are concerned and then they will turn out well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may be rather bored with conditions at home but apply yourself and do something about it to improve them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get errands run, make important visits, and clear yourself of work for the weekend. Go on a spree with friends.

Record number of Lloyd's 'names' fail solvency test

LONDON (R) — A record number of "names", the wealthy individuals who underwrite Lloyd's of London, have failed a solvency test, the insurance market announced Tuesday.

Lloyd's chief executive Mr. Ian Hay Davison told a news conference that 517 "names" — partners who are not active in underwriting but have unlimited liability — had not shown the required readily realizable assets of £100,000 (\$134,000).

Of those who failed the annual test, 325 were members of the troubled syndicates formerly managed by the PCW underwriting agency, which came under suspicion in 1982 after allegations against two of its directors.

The PCW "names", who include Saudi financier Mr. Adnan Khashoggi and Britain's Duchess of Kent, face total losses of £130 million (\$174.2 million).

A committee set up by those worst hit has alleged that the losses are due in part to fraud and mismanagement and suggested "names" think hard before submitting to the test.

The committee is organising legal action against Lloyd's, PCW and its successor agencies and maintains that the "names" should be exempted from the normal rules of liability. However, Lloyd's has so far rejected any possible financial lifeline.

Insurance industry sources

noted that not passing the test did not necessarily mean a name was insolvent as an individual. They said Lloyd's was clearly hoping that some of the PCW "names" were protesting at the way their affairs had been handled and would later prove their capacity to underwrite.

Committee member Mr. Keith Whitten told Reuters he estimated about half the PCW "names" who failed were protesting, while the others could genuinely not meet the financial requirements.

A Lloyd's spokesman declined to identify names who failed, saying that they would be posted at the end of the notice period face suspension by the Council of Lloyd's and ineligibility for what Mr. Hay Davison said would be a profitable underwriting year.

The failures mean Lloyd's will have a £65.5 million (\$87.7 million) shortfall in underwriting capacity, almost 90 per cent of it due to PCW "names". This will be met from a central fund set aside for that purpose.

The industry sources said membership at Lloyd's, a 300-year-old market and the world's largest, totalled around 26,000, with an annual underwriting capacity of about £7 billion (\$9.4 billion).

EC ministers approve steel export cuts to U.S.

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) industry ministers have approved an agreement with Washington cutting their steel exports to the United States and have agreed how to share out the reduced sales, officials said.

The agreement, reached late Tuesday night after more than seven hours of bargaining, was hailed by diplomats and officials as a breakthrough which had prevented a trade row with the U.S.

"This is an equitable agreement which takes into consideration the vital interests of the steel industry in the U.S. as well as in the Community," Mr. Willy de Clercq, commissioner for external trade, told journalists.

The ministers finally agreed to a 25 per cent cut in exports of 11 categories of steel products for the rest of this year.

The agreement followed a consultation request made by Washington last spring because of sharply increased exports. The U.S. had made Aug. 1 a deadline for European restrictions, threatening unilateral action otherwise to slash Community imports.

Diplomats said the restriction only applied to the remaining five months of this year and the Community expected to export 198,000 tonnes more during that period.

The Community had already exported 514,000 tonnes up to last month and the diplomats said that despite the 25 per cent cut-back total exports this year would even exceed the 1984 deliveries of 632,000 tonnes.

The deal was only possible after the ministers had satisfied West Germany on sharing out a separate, previously agreed quota for pipes and tubes exports to the U.S., the diplomats said.

Under a January agreement, the Community had been granted a 7.6 share of the U.S. market for its exports.

West Germany pushed hard for an extra share within this quota of the European total of 233,000 tonnes and finally was given an extra 15,000 tonnes.

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'Brazil to get renewed credit'

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — John S. Reed, chairman and chief executive officer of Citibank, said Tuesday that international banks probably would renew \$16 billion in short term credits to Brazil that expire at the end of the month.

Speaking at a press conference in Brazil's largest city and financial centre, Mr. Reed said that despite the lack of pact between Brazil and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "it will be possible for the banks to reach some kind of agreement" on \$10 billion in trade credits and \$6 billion in interbank credits that expire on Aug. 31.

With loans of almost \$5 billion, Citibank is Brazil's largest individual creditor. Brazil's staggering foreign debt stands at more than \$100 billion. Mr. Reed said Citibank was willing to extend interbank and trade credit lines for another three months.

"Our feeling is that there is reason to permit the new government to have time to put together its economic plans, which would later be approved by the IMF," Mr. Reed said.

When Brazil turned to the IMF for help in 1982 and in 1983, the Washington-based organisation approved a three-year, \$4.9 billion loan. Billions of dollars more were granted by international banks.

However, last February, the IMF, claiming Brazil failed to meet targets for limiting the money supply and reducing inflation, suspended loan disbursements of \$1.42 billion. Inflation is now running at about 220 per cent.

Fixed period rates were roughly 1/4 percentage point higher, in sympathy with the short-dated sector which attracted most attention. Dealers quoted one and three month deposit rates around 7 1/4, 6 1/4 per cent and six-month at 7 1/2 seven per cent.

The central bank was reported to be offering 8 1/4 per cent on one week money and 7 1/4 per cent for one-year.

It lowered its exchange rate to 0.30248/86 to the dollar from Tuesday's 0.30143/81. The spot dollar was quoted at around 0.3030313/25 in late trading.

YPE is burdened with a debt of nearly \$6 billion. Despite a vigorous exploration programme over the past two years, it has failed to make important oil finds.

Argentina exports about \$350 million a year in petroleum by-products.

Oil companies were reluctant to sign contracts with YPE, fearing it would be unable to pay for the work performed due to a shortage of dollar reserves stemming from the debt crisis.

But Mr. Storani said if reserves are not available, YPE would pay the companies with crude oil and refined products.

Right-wing parties have strongly supported the plan. Conservative politician Mr. Alvaro Alsogaray said: "We must attract investment capital, make it produce the oil and gas, then we should charge the corresponding taxes and royalties, because the state does not have the resources to carry out the production."

But Left-wing politician Mr. Raul Caballero said he opposed the new contracts because "we become importers of our own crude."

The decision was partly due to the economic restrictions facing Argentina as a result of its \$48 billion foreign debt and was also aimed at increasing exports to help meet debt payments and foster economic growth.

The government aims to attract at least \$23 billion in private investment over 15 years, he told a news conference Tuesday.

Argentina, self-sufficient in oil for many years through the state oil company YPE, now has only 14 years of proven reserves left at present consumption levels.

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Economist sees major role for small, private firms

WASHINGTON (USIA) — International aid agencies and the governments of many developing countries are now aware of the role that small enterprises can play "in providing productive employment and earnings opportunities," according to a Michigan State University economist.

Dr. Carl Liedholm pointed out last month at a congressional hearing that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) increasingly is focusing on the role of the small entrepreneur. He said USAID Administrator Mr. M. Peter McPherson, in recent statements, stressed the importance of "mobilising an entrepreneurial revolution" in developing countries.

Dr. Liedholm's testimony was based on his own findings and on studies sponsored in the 1970s by USAID's Bureau for Science and Technology. Some of the findings are:

— Small-scale firms (those with fewer than 50 workers) form a significant component of the industrial sectors of most developing countries. They account for most of the country's industrial employment in light consumer goods related to clothing, furniture, food and drink.

— Most of the small industrial firms are located in rural areas with populations less than 20,000.

— Most of the small firms employ from one to five persons.

— Almost all the small firms are privately owned and organised as sole proprietorships.

— Women own and run a significant number of small firms in many developing countries.

— Small-scale industries are growing at a faster rate than large-scale industries in some countries.

— The primary markets for small firms are local, with rural and low-income households the main customers.

— Small-scale industries are almost always more labour-intensive and therefore are better able to absorb a developing country's large pool of unskilled labour.

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